



# Acrobat Distiller Control Interface Specification

*Adobe Developer Support*

---

Technical Note #5158

08 December 1994

## Adobe Systems Incorporated

Corporate Headquarters  
1585 Charleston Road PO Box 7900  
Mountain View, CA 94039-7900  
(415) 961-4400 Main Number  
(415) 961-4111 Developer Support  
Fax: (415) 969-4138

Adobe Systems Europe B.V.  
Europlaza  
Hoogoorddreef 54a  
1101 BE Amsterdam Z-O, Netherlands  
+31-20-6511 355  
Fax: +31-20-6511 313

Adobe Systems Eastern Region  
24 New England  
Executive Park  
Burlington, MA 01803  
(617) 273-2120  
Fax: (617) 273-2336

Adobe Systems Japan  
Swiss Bank House 7F  
4-1-8 Toranomom, Minato-ku  
Tokyo 105, Japan  
+81-3-3437-8950  
Fax: +81-3-3437-8968

Copyright © 1994 by Adobe Systems Incorporated. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written consent of the publisher. Any software referred to herein is furnished under license and may only be used or copied in accordance with the terms of such license.

PostScript is a trademark of Adobe Systems Incorporated. All instances of the name PostScript in the text are references to the PostScript language as defined by Adobe Systems Incorporated unless otherwise stated. The name PostScript also is used as a product trademark for Adobe Systems' implementation of the PostScript language interpreter.

Any references to a "PostScript printer," a "PostScript file," or a "PostScript driver" refer to printers, files, and driver programs (respectively) which are written in or support the PostScript language. The sentences in this book that use "PostScript language" as an adjective phrase are so constructed to reinforce that the name refers to the standard language definition as set forth by Adobe Systems Incorporated.

Adobe, the Adobe logo, Acrobat, Distiller, and PostScript are trademarks of Adobe Systems Incorporated or its subsidiaries and may be registered in certain jurisdictions. AppleScript is a trademark and Apple and Macintosh are registered trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. Microsoft and MS-DOS are registered trademarks and Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation. Other brand or product names are the trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders.

*This publication and the information herein is furnished AS IS, is subject to change without notice, and should not be construed as a commitment by Adobe Systems Incorporated. Adobe Systems Incorporated assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or inaccuracies, makes no warranty of any kind (express, implied or statutory) with respect to this publication, and expressly disclaims any and all warranties of merchantability, fitness for particular purposes and noninfringement of third party rights.*



# Contents

---

- 1 Introduction 1
- 2 Apple Macintosh 1
  - Apple event support 1
- 3 Microsoft Windows 3
  - Windows messages 3
  - Command line options 4



# Acrobat Distiller Control Interface Specification

---

## 1 Introduction

This document describes the Acrobat™ Distiller™ control interface, present in version 2 of the Acrobat Distiller program for Apple® Macintosh® and Microsoft® Windows™ systems. This interface allows other applications to programmatically control the Distiller program. It consists of Apple events on the Macintosh, and Windows messages and command line options under Windows.

## 2 Apple Macintosh

### 2.1 Apple event support

The Macintosh version of the Distiller program supports Apple events. Apple events can be used from programming languages such as C or from AppleScript™. Because AppleScript is more straightforward, using it is the recommended way to use Apple events with the Distiller program. Software that uses Apple events can tell the Distiller program to:

- Open and distill one or more PostScript® language files, creating a Portable Document Format (PDF) file for each. Each PDF file can either have the name of the original file (but with a “.pdf” extension) or the name of each PDF file can be independently specified.
- Process PostScript language files, as above, but not return control until the Distiller program has finished distilling all the PDF files that were specified.
- Launch or quit the Distiller program.

The notation used in this document follows that used in the *AppleScript Language Guide*, published by Addison–Wesley (ISBN 0–201–40735–3):

- Keywords are shown in roman faces, parameters in italics.
- Optional items are enclosed in square brackets.

Each piece of AppleScript example code in this document assumes that it is being executed within an appropriate tell – end construct, for example:

```
tell application "Acrobat™ Distiller™ 2.0"
    ...example code here...
end tell
```

The Distiller program supports three of the four required Apple events: open, run, and quit. While the fourth required event, print, is present, it simply generates an error message because printing has no meaning in the Distiller program. The open Apple event supported by the Distiller program is an enhanced version of the open Apple event.

---

## open

```
open sourceFile [ destination destfile ] [ with wait ]
```

<b>Description</b>	Opens one or more files for the Distiller program to process. If the optional with wait is used, the Distiller program returns control only <i>after</i> a PDF file (or log file) is created, instead of immediately. Multiple source and destination files may be specified.	
<b>Parameters</b>	sourceFile	(reference) The file or files to open.
	destFile	(reference) The file or files to create.
<b>Return Value</b>	None	
<b>Examples</b>	open file "work.ps" destination file "AppleEvt.pdf" open { file "work.ps", file "dev.ps" } destination { file "AppleEvt.pdf", file "dev_acro.pdf" }	

---

## run

```
run
```

<b>Description</b>	Launches the Distiller program and invokes its standard startup procedures.
<b>Parameters</b>	None
<b>Return Value</b>	None
<b>Example</b>	run

---

## quit

```
quit
```

<b>Description</b>	Terminates the Distiller program.
<b>Parameters</b>	None
<b>Return Value</b>	None
<b>Example</b>	quit

### 3 Microsoft Windows

#### 3.1 Windows messages

The Microsoft Windows version of the Distiller program supports two Windows messages that:

- Specify the file or files to process and the output destination.
- Confirm when each file specified in the first Windows message has completed processing.

The enumerated data types and constants necessary to use the Windows messaging portion of the Distiller control interface are defined in the file *distctrl.h*. This file is included in the Acrobat Plug-In Software Development Kit (SDK) and the Acrobat SDK. Source files that use the Distiller control interface must include *distctrl.h*.

Members of a structure of type **DISTRECORD** (defined in *distctrl.h*) are set to specify the list of files to distill and the destination for the output files. Applications should fill in the structure members listed in Table 1.

**Table 1** *Members of the DISTRECORD structure*

<i>Structure Member</i>	<i>Description</i>
sender	Sending application (HWND). If NULL is passed, then the Distiller program will not return DM_DONE messages.
fileList	Comma-delimited list of files to distill (char).
outputFile	Destination path for output file or files (char). If multiple files are specified for fileList, specify a directory rather than a specific file, or each destination file will be overwritten by the next.

One of the options listed in Table 2 must be specified in the **SendMessage** call to control the appearance of the Save dialog box when each source file is processed.

**Table 2** *EnqueueOption constants*

<i>Constant</i>	<i>Description</i>
EQ_NO_SAVE_DIALOG	Do not display the Save dialog box.

#### EQ\_DEFAULT\_OLD\_DEST

Display the Save dialog box. Use the most recent destination directory as the default destination directory.

#### EQ\_DEFAULT\_SOURCE

Display the Save dialog box. Use the source file's directory as the default destination directory.

---

To tell the Distiller program to begin processing the file list, a DM\_DISTILL Windows message, containing the DISTRECORD structure and the chosen EnqueueOption, is sent to the Distiller program. The following example demonstrates sending the DM\_DISTILL Windows message to the Distiller program. The message tells the Distiller program to process two PostScript language files and store the resulting PDF files in a specified directory, omitting the unnecessary Save dialog box.

```
DISTILLRECORD distRec;
LPARAM params;
EnqueueOptions option;
HWND hDistillerWnd = FindWindow("Distiller", NULL);

strcpy(distRec.fileList, "C:\\WORK.PS,D:\\FINALAD.PS");
strcpy(distRec.outputFile, "C:\\PDFDOCS");
distRec.sender = hwnd;
option = EQ_NO_SAVE_DIALOG;

params = (LPARAM) AllocAlias16(&distRec);
rtn = SendMessage(hDistillerWnd, DM_DISTILL, (WPARAM) option,
    params);
FreeAlias16((DWORD)params);

if (rtn)
    PostMessage (hDistillerWnd, WM_TIMER, ID_TIMER, NULL);
```

If the sending application is specified in the sender member of the DISTRECORD structure passed in the DM\_DISTILL message, a DM\_DONE message is returned to the application after each file specified has been distilled. The DM\_DONE message includes a structure of type DISTRECORD as a parameter. The fileList member of the structure contains the name of the PostScript language file that was processed, and the outputFile member contains the name of the resulting PDF file.

### 3.2 Command line options

The Distiller program supports options passed as arguments on the command line. The command line is accessed from the Run command in the Windows File Manager or from another Windows program using the WinExec() function.



To process a list of PostScript language files:

```
acrodist sourceFile1[, sourceFile2...]
```

To process a PostScript language files and name the output PDF file:

```
acrodist /o destFile sourceFile
```

To process a list of PostScript language files and place the output PDF files in a specified directory:

```
acrodist /o directory sourceFile1[, sourceFile2...]
```

To force the Distiller program to terminate when it has finished distilling all PostScript language files in watched directories and any that were specified on the command line:

```
acrodist /q [sourceFile1[, sourceFile2...]]
```



